

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) An implantable ~~bearing for an~~ orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) a ~~gamma-irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene; and (ii) a non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene molded to said crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene at a melt-fused interface.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein said ~~gamma-irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene and said non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

51. Cancelled.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein:

said ~~gamma-irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said non-crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

53. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:
said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein
which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:
said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein
which is adapted to be secured to a tibia of a patient.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 49, wherein said ~~gamma-irradiated~~ radiation crosslinked layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein.

56. (Currently Amended) An implantable ~~bearing for an~~ orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a laminar composite bearing having (i) a first layer of ~~gamma-irradiated~~ polymer polyethylene which is radiation crosslinked to a first degree; and (ii) a second layer of polymer polyethylene molded to said first layer of polymer polyethylene at a melt-fused interface, said second layer of polymer polyethylene is crosslinked to a second degree that is different than said first degree.

57. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein said second degree is less than said first degree.

58. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 57, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein.

59. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene and said second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene are compression molded to one another.

60. Cancelled.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of ~~gamma irradiated polymer~~ polyethylene has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

62. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

63. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:

said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

64. - 123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently Amended) The implantable ~~bearing~~ orthopaedic prosthesis of claim 56, wherein the second layer of ~~polymer~~ polyethylene comprises ~~gamma-irradiated polymer~~ radiation crosslinked polyethylene.